

# Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

A CHAPTER OF THE  
VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 38, No. 1

Spring Newsletter

February 2017

## Welcome New Members!

Nick Budlong of Salem  
Lori Dupier of Union Hall  
Denise Hendon of Dublin  
Diana Raichel of Lawrence, NJ  
Maxine Fraade of Roanoke



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**Next newsletter deadline:  
May 15, 2017**



**Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus* by Butch Kelly**

*Please submit your photos to Editor, Carol Whiteside. Thank you!*

**The Annual Picnic in conjunction with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
Will be held **August 12, 2017, 4:00 - 5:30 pm** at  
The Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue  
Look for details in the summer newsletter**

## Message from Your President Ellen Holtman



Winter greetings, everybody!

Baby, it is still cold outside, but the days are getting longer and our favorite spring flowers will be popping soon. The board met in January, and we are so lucky to have these good people on board! You are now seeing the wonderful newsletter innovations by our creative new editor, Carol Whiteside, and you will get to know that all the board members are talented!

There are lots of fun wildflower activities in the planning stages. Speakers will be wonderful, starting soon with our own Butch Kelly on the 27th with a look at the greenery of the winter landscape. Our spring field trips will visit beautiful sites, some of which we haven't seen for years. We're even including an overnigher! And we will offer something new~ pop-up trips on week days!

Preparations for the May plant sale have begun and it will work a little differently this year. Please read about the sale and other upcoming events, and pass along other ideas for programs and trips. It's going to be a great year!

*Ellen*

## Virginia Native Plant Society

The Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS), founded in 1982 as the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, is a nonprofit organization of individuals who share an interest in Virginia's native plants and habitats. The Society and its chapters seek to further the appreciation and conservation of this priceless heritage.

**Our Mission:** The Virginia Native Plant Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of the native plants of Virginia and their habitats, in order to sustain for generations to come the integrity of the Commonwealth's rich natural heritage of ecosystems and biodiversity for purposes of enjoyment, enlightenment, sustainable use, and our own very survival. To this end, we advocate and follow practices that will conserve our natural endowment, and we discourage and combat practices that will endanger or destroy it. We are committed to do all we can to slow the accelerating conversion of natural landscape to built and planted landscape and to reduce its damage to natural ecosystems.

### Our Purpose and Services:

#### State Level:

- Working for measures to protect endangered plant species, and preserve habitats and plant communities of special interest
- Learning and teaching about native plants and their special needs
- Encouraging the appropriate use of nursery or home propagated native plants in public landscapes and private gardens
- Assisting in writing and updating Flora of Virginia
- Providing money for graduate botanical research
- Working with nurseries to protect native species
- Offering a spring workshop on timely botanical subjects
- Offering field trips state wide and some in surrounding states
- Conducting the annual meeting with speakers and field trips provided

#### Local level, Blue Ridge Chapter:

- To present meetings in spring and fall that offer informative programs concerning a variety of areas and plants they support
- To lead free field trips to a wide variety of local habitats spring through fall
- To conduct an annual native plant sale in May at VA Western Arboretum
- To provide outreach to public groups in the way of speakers and guided walks
- To donate money to local conservation

## Blue Ridge Wildflower Society Chapter

**Counties of:** Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Roanoke

**Cities of:** Roanoke, Salem, and Lynchburg

**Website:** [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org)

## Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

PO Box 20385, Roanoke, VA 24018



## 2017 Officers

### President

**Ellen Holtman**..... (540) 389-1514  
eholtman@comcast.net

### Vice President

**Kathy Lauver**..... (540) 685-4173  
cjl1954@cox.net

### Secretary

**Ellen Scott**..... (540) 344-4423  
hoos1902@aol.com

### Treasurer

**Stew Hubbell**..... (540) 774-8676  
stew22xtra@cox.net

### Past President

**Lou Greiner**..... (540) 774-3975  
louart.min@rev.net

## Committee Chairmen

### Field Trips, Programs

**Butch Kelly**..... (540) 384-7429  
butch2410@msn.com

### Garden Coordinator

**Linda Harrison**..... (540) 343-2783  
lindaharrison29@hotmail.com

### Historian

**Betty Kelly**..... (540) 384-7429  
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### Membership

**Terry Lauver**..... (540) 685-4173  
tl1945@cox.net

### Newsletter

**Carol Whiteside**..... (540) 774-2143  
whitesidemules@yahoo.com

### Refreshments

**Connie Crites**..... (540) 774-4518  
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## CONTACT US!

The BRWS Newsletter is published three times annually: spring, summer and fall. Photos and articles are gladly accepted for publication as room allows, and may be sent electronically, by mail, or delivered in person with a prompt return.

Thank you!

**Carol Whiteside**

6487 Shingle Ridge Road • Roanoke, VA 24018  
whitesidemules@yahoo.com 540.774.2143

**Next newsletter deadline:**

**May 15, 2017.**



# 2017 Calendar of Events



## **Sunday, February 19, 1:00 pm, Field Trip "Catawba: A Look at Signs of Spring and What Nature Brings"**

Join Betty and Butch Kelly for a look at last years' blooms, insect evidence, left over green and skunk cabbage. We will look at winter botany and share hot chocolate. There will be some walking so be prepared for any kind of weather.

**Meet:** 1:00 p.m. at Orange Market, Salem at the corner of Thompson Memorial Boulevard and Rt. 311.

**Leader:** Butch Kelly, 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

## **Saturday, February 25, 9:00 am – noon, "Potting Party" at Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs**

We need lots of volunteers to help us pot about 1,300 roots, bulbs and young plants for the plant sale that takes place in May. The club will provide the plants, soil, fertilizer, pots and labels, but we need your hands. Please wear clothes that can get dirty and bring work gloves. We also need volunteers with trucks, vans or trailers to take the pots home and store them on the ground to grow until the May sale. As a reward for those who volunteer that day, we have ordered 50 Trout Lily Bulbs to be sold to the volunteers at the end of the potting party. You will be able to plant them immediately so you can enjoy them this year and for years to come. Although we have often had requests for Trout Lilies in the past, we have not offered them before because they bloom in February and March and have passed their prime by the May sale.

**Meet:** 9:00 am - noon, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue

**Leader:** Michael Belcher, 989-6384

## **Monday, February 27, 7:00pm Chapter Meeting: "Winters' Green" and "How to Lead A Field Trip"**

Butch Kelly will share slides for a look at what is green in winter. He will also have a short talk on leading a field trip. If the task seems daunting to you, he will ease your mind. Perhaps we can find a member or two who will step up to help us out with future field trips.

**Meet:** 7:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke **Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

## **Saturday, March 4, 9:15 am - 3:30 pm 2017 Workshop Virginia Native Plant Society**

### **"Under Stories, Small Communities and Secret Agents"**

Featuring four esteemed speakers to explore the natural communities of mosses, lichens and what fungi are up to when they link up with plants underground. Some of the smallest or most beautiful members of natural communities have stories and powers that will surprise us, please join us in exploring these natural communities – and their lives under cover.

**Contact:** 540-837-1600 or info@vnps.org **Register before February 28**

**Meet:** 9:15 am - 3:30 pm, University of Richmond, Jepson Hall Auditorium, Ryland Circle

## **Saturday, March 11, 2:00pm, "Maintaining the Wildflower Garden" at Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs**

*(Rain date March 12)* Please join us for weeding, mulching and checking the plant signage to celebrate the arrival of spring! Bring water, gloves, clippers, loppers, and any of your favorite tools. Some tools and snacks will be provided.

**Meet:** 2:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue

**Contact:** Linda Harrison, 343-2783 or lindaharrison29@hotmail.com

## **Monday, March 27, 7:00pm Chapter Meeting: "Wetlands, Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Blue Ridge Music Center"**

Tom Davis has worked for the National Park Service for over 30 years as a biologist, interpreter, wildland fire fighter and a park ranger. For the past 22 years Tom has worked as a Natural Resource Management Specialist with the Blue Ridge Parkway. His responsibilities include wildlife management, overseeing the Parkway's Agricultural Leasing Program, and assisting with the park's land protection program. Tom's talk will focus on the National Park Service's on-going efforts to manage the Chestnut Creek floodplain, wetlands and surrounding wildflower meadows for the benefit of grassland birds, pollinator species and other wildlife. The program will include a discussion of the many wildflowers found at the Blue Ridge Music Center and Fisher's Peak.

**Meet:** 7:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke **Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

## **Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am Field Trip: "Arcadia" *(Rain date April 8)***

This is in the Jefferson National Forest and is a long time favorite area of our chapter. It has some of the best displays of early flowers. In the past we have seen birds foot violet, toothwort, spring beauty, bloodroot, hepatica and many others. There will be some walking so wear boots, have clothing layers and bring lunch and water. It is April Fool's Day, the weather could trick us!

**Meet:** 10:00 am, Bojangles Restaurant at the Botetourt Commons in Daleville. Bring lunch and water

**Leader** Butch Kelly 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

Our monthly meeting will be canceled if Roanoke County Schools close for inclement weather.  
For safety and environmental reasons, please leave all pets at home during field trips.

# 2017 Calendar of Events



## **Saturday, April 8, 2:00pm, "Maintaining the Wildflower Garden" at Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs**

(Rain date April 9) Please join us for weeding, mulching and checking the plant signage to celebrate the arrival of spring! Bring water, gloves, clippers, loppers, and any of your favorite tools. Some tools and snacks will be provided.

**Meet:** 2:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue

**Contact:** Linda Harrison, 343-2783 or lindaharrison29@hotmail.com

## **Tuesday, April 18 Field Trip: "Parents, Teachers, Scout Leaders and Kids Spring Break Walk at Green Hill Park"**

Green Hill Park in Salem offers the most spectacular show of floral splendor of anywhere in our area. Look forward to seeing large flowered trillium, Canada violet, toothwort, wild ginger, Virginia blue bells and many more. This is a great opportunity for parents, teachers, and scout leaders to introduce children to the world of wildflowers.

**Meet:** 10:00 am, picnic pavilion at Green Hill Park, which is located at the end of the road in the park

**Leaders:** Ellen Holtman, Connie Crites, Lou Greiner, and Gail MacFarland

**Contact:** Ellen Holtman at 389-1514.

## **Saturday, April 22, 10:00am – 3:00pm Earth Day in Elmwood Park**

Bill Modica is in charge again, and will keep us updated through Linda Harrison. Volunteers are needed for one hour shifts. We will offer handouts and a children's activity (to be decided). Also, we may be selling or giving away plants.

**Contact:** Linda Harrison, 343-2783 or lindaharrison29@hotmail.com

**Monday, April 24, 7:00pm Chapter Meeting: "Gardens for Pollinators"** Ellen Holtman, a retired biology teacher and the current president of our chapter, gardens for pollinators in her yard, at the Salem Museum, and in our group's butterfly garden at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs. Ellen's program will talk about gardening to provide the needs of honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies and other pollinators so that you can keep these beautiful creatures in your garden all summer.

**Meet:** 7:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke **Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514

## **Saturday, May 6, 9:00 am Field Trip "Peaks of Otter and North Creek"**

These two areas host many plants throughout the spring months. If you missed some things in April in the Roanoke Valley we should see some of them in the higher elevations of the Peaks area. The featured plants will be fire pink, yellow lady slipper and turkey beard. There will be little walking. Most of the plants are adjacent to the roads we will travel.

**Meet:** Kroger store on U.S. 460 in the gas station parking lot at 9:00 am. Bring a lunch, water and rain gear.

**Leader** Butch Kelly 384-7429 or butch2410@msn.com

**Saturday, May 13, 9:00am – noon, BRWS Annual Plant Sale Virginia Western Community College Arboretum** The BRWS Plant Sale will be at the parking lot next to the Virginia Western Community College Arboretum greenhouse. We expect to have at least 50 species of native plants for sale. Some of the more popular varieties will be Solomon's Seal and Plume, bleeding heart, Virginia bluebell, cardinal flowers, fire pink, Green and Gold, Goldenseal and Wood Betony to name a few. All plants will be in pots ready to take home and plant. There will be folks on hand to help advise where the plants will do best. If members have plants to sell, please have them potted and labeled and show up about 8:00 am. All help is welcome. Volunteer for an hour or help for the whole sale.

**Meet:** 9:00 am - noon, Virginia Western Community College Arboretum

**Leader:** Michael Belcher, 989-6384

**Monday, May 22, 7:00pm Chapter Meeting: "Remarkable Pollination Biology of Flame Azalea and the Natural History of the Insects that Visit Its Flowers."** Mary Jane Epps is an assistant professor of biology at Mary Baldwin University, where she teaches both botany and conservation biology. Following a bachelor's degree at Duke University she earned her Ph. D. at the University of Arizona in 2012. As an ecologist with a strong emphasis on natural history, her research investigates a wide range of interactions between plants, fungi, and insects. In addition to studying the pollination of native azaleas some of her current projects explore the ecological effects of invasive species and how fungal-insect interactions respond to climate change.

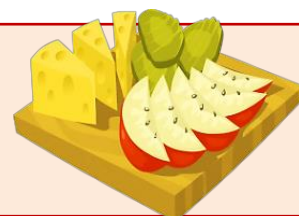
**Meet:** 7:00 pm, Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke **Contact:** Ellen Holtman, 389-1514



**Refreshment Committee Volunteers**  
*are earnestly sought for our meetings' snack prep!*

*Please contact:*

**Connie Crites 774-4518**



# Meet A Member

## Ellen Holtman

## Cathy Lauwer

**BRWS President**



**I** am a lifelong Salemite who married my high school sweetheart, Roger, and we raised two daughters, now grown. Our granddaughter lives in San Francisco. Even though I am retired from a career teaching biology, my life is busier than ever, but with lots of fun things!

In the seventies, through Rich Crites and his flora class at Virginia Western Community College, I found the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society. In 1978, I chaired the Roanoke Valley Wildflower Pilgrimage, while eight months pregnant!

I love learning from friends on the BRWS field trips and I never "grow" tired of the beauty of wild plants. Green Hill Park is always beautiful in spring with its thousands of trillium. Twinleaf, my favorite wildflower, shows up there too, and at Falls Ridge, another great favorite of mine.

At home I have a long, narrow, shady wildflower garden that I'm currently expanding, and also a sunny garden planted for bees and butterflies. I'm an active member of the Virginia Master Naturalists, and I just finished the Master Gardener course, too. Other more sedentary hobbies are knitting, quilting and sewing.

The people in our Blue Ridge Wildflower Chapter are some of the kindest, gentlest people I know, and I am happy (if somewhat daunted) to serve as president of the club!



**BRWS Vice President**



**I** am originally from Lemoyne, Pennsylvania, which is just outside Harrisburg. My husband, Terry, and I have been married for 38 years, and we have lived in the Roanoke area for nineteen years. Travis and Kristin, our son and his wife, live in Arlington, Virginia.

I work for the Roanoke City Schools as a teacher of students with blindness and visual impairments. For 38 years I have worked in this same capacity in North Carolina, New York, and Virginia.

Terry and I have been BRWS members for most of our years in Virginia. However, we have only been active members for the last two years due to living too far away to attend meetings and just generally being too busy. Now we live in Roanoke making it much more convenient to be involved. We found the BRWS when they used to sponsor wildflower hikes with the Science Museum.

I enjoy the presentations and speakers of our meetings. The field trips are always wonderful outings and a way for me to learn more about wildflowers, since I am not a science person and my knowledge of wildflowers is limited. I enjoy learning from so many experienced, sharing people.

I love the diversity of wildflowers, especially as you see what is blooming throughout the seasons. Two of my favorite areas are Roaring Run near Eagle Rock and Falling Cascades Trail off the Blue Ridge Parkway. I like to hike, read, travel, and spend time with friends and family. Terry and I go to the Philadelphia Flower Show, which is a favorite annual activity.



## Volunteers and Plants Needed For the Plant Sale

By **Michael Belcher, 989-6384**



**We** need lots of volunteers for this year's plant sale! Rumor has it that Veterans Affairs are closing the nursery soon and Sandy Lane, the director, has retired. (Even if the nursery remains open, new plants can't be ordered until a new director is hired.) Because our main source of plants has ended, we have reached out and purchased "plugs," roots and bulbs from some other wholesale nurseries.

We will need lots of help to pot these plants February 25. We also need volunteers with trucks, vans or trailers to store the potted plants at home until the sale May 13. And then, of course, we need volunteers to donate plants from home for the sale.

If you volunteer to store plants at home, the plants **SHOULD NOT be stored indoors, on picnic tables, shelves or patios**. They need to sit on the ground in the same kind of environment in which they would naturally grow. So woodland plants should be stored on the ground under deciduous trees and sun-loving summer plants should be stored on the ground in sunny areas.

There is no need to mulch over the plants or to actually bury them in the ground. Don't worry about cold spells or snows either. These plants evolved for just that kind of weather. Mother Nature should take care of the watering, but if we get less than an inch of rain a week, please water.

We ask that you only volunteer to store the plants if you have your own way of transporting them from the potting party to your house in February and from your house to the plant sale in May. The individual pots (4"x4" x4") will go in 15-pot trays that are 13" X 21." With more than 1,300 pots, we are looking to store and transport about 90 trays.

If you normally bring lots of plants from your property to the sale, it may be better not to volunteer to store plants because then you would be limited in what you could bring from home.

We also need plants from your homes as well. Specifically, we know we need volunteers to bring: Mayapples, Jack in the Pulpits, Lilly of the Valley, Wild Gingers, Spiderwort, Christmas ferns, Ostrich ferns, Wood ferns, Wood Poppies/Celandine, Mints, Butter and Eggs, Herb Robert, Galax and any sun loving plants that you can donate. **If you can help with storing the plants, please call Michael Belcher at 540-989-6384.**



## Blue Ridge Wildflower Society

P.O. Box 20385  
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

**Membership**   ☐ New   ☐ Renewal

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership dues:**

- ☐ Individual \$30   ☐ Family \$40   ☐ Student \$15  
☐ Life \$500   ☐ Patron \$50   ☐ Sustaining \$100  
☐ Associate \$40. Organization \_\_\_\_\_

(Also, please name your delegate above.)

- ☐ Additional, nonvoting chapter memberships, \$5 each.  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enroll me as:**

- ☐ Member of **Blue Ridge Wildflower Society** Chapter  
☐ Member at Large (no local chapter affiliation)  
☐ Gift Membership. Please send a card in my name: \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish to make an additional contribution to:**

- ☐ Chapter. Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ State office of VNPS. Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit card payments:**

- ☐ MasterCard   ☐ Visa   ☐ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Do not list me in the chapter directory.

VNPS does not exchange member information with other organizations.

**Please make your check out to VNPS and mail it to:**

Memberships  
Virginia Native Plant Society  
400 Blandy Farm Lane, Unit #2  
Boyce, VA 22620

For Office use only

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

Amount rec'd \_\_\_\_\_